

REMARKS

Claims 13, 16, 18, 20, and 21 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 13, 16, 18, and 20 have been amended and claims 14, 15, 17, 19, and 22-27 have been cancelled. It should be noted that without conceding the propriety of the rejections, the claims have been amended for clarity only. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and claims as filed.

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 14, 15, 17, 19, and 22-27 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objection

Claim 15 has been objected for informalities. As claim 15 has been cancelled, the objection to claim 15 is moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,897,319 ("Sun") and claims 18, 20, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sun.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above rejections are moot in light of the amendments to independent claims 13, 16, 18, and 20 because the subject matter of cancelled and allowable claims 14, 15, 17, 19, and 22-27 have been incorporated

into independent claims 13, 16, 18, and 20. Accordingly, for at least this reason, withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below if any issues remain in this matter, or if a discussion regarding any portion of the application is desired by the Examiner.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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